

A Song of the Ladysmith Siege.

During the siege of Ladysmith the soldiers published a paper called the "Ladysmith Bombshell" and a former St. Johnsbury resident, who is now in Pretoria, has sent to her friends a paper containing the following clever parody on Poe's "Raven."

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary,
Over all the quaint and curious yams we've had about the war,
Suddenly there came a rumour (we can all ways take a few more)
Started by some chap who knew more than the others knew before,
We shall have the reinforcements in another month or more
Only this and nothing more.

But we're waiting still for Clery, waiting, waiting, sick and weary,
Of the strange and silly rumours we have often heard before,
And we now begin to fancy there's a touch of economy
Something almost too unchancy in the undergarment Boer
Only this and nothing more.

Though our hopes are undiminished, that the war will be finished
We would be a little happier if we knew a little more,
If we had a little fuller information about the matter,
News about Sir Redvers Buller and his famous army corps,
Information of the General and his fighting army corps,
Only this and nothing more.

And the midnight shells uncertain whistling through the night's black curtain,
Thrills us, fills us, with a touch of horror never felt before,
So that now to still the beating of our hearts we keep repeating,
Some late visitor, entering entrance at the chamber door,
This it is and nothing more.

Oh, how slow the shells come dropping, sometimes bursting, sometimes stopping,
As they themselves were weary of the very longed-for war;
How distinctly we'll remember all the weary dull November days,
And it seems as though December will have little else in store,
And our Xmas dinner will be badly beef—
And nothing more.

Acham, acham, tell us truly if there's any news come lately,
Not the old fantastic rumours we have often heard before,
Indeed, yet all undaunted in the town by Boers still haunted,
This is all the news that's wanted: tell us truly, we implore,
Is there, there, there, there, there, tell us, tell us, we implore,
Only this and nothing more.

For we're waiting rather weary, Is there such a man as a Boer?
Are there really reinforcements? Is there any army corps?
Shall we see our wives and mothers, or our fathers and brothers?
Shall we ever see those others, who went southwards long before?
Shall we ever taste fresh butter? Tell us, tell us, we implore,
Shall be answered—nevermore.

The Mother's Hour.

Little fingers robed in white,
Mellow glow of candle-light.

Little hands upraised in prayer,
Kisses sweet and very fair.

All the work and play and fun
For the happy day are done.

All the little faults confessed,
All the troubles cast at rest.

Childhood sweet as dawn and flowers
Drifts through many changeful hours.

But one hour, the mother's own,
Must belong to her alone.

When she sees each sunny head
Shine and coo in its nest,

When the world may do its worst,
God and she have had their first.

And her hair is folded fair
In the tender Shepherd's care.

Angels bend above the roe,
Where the dimpled darlings bloom.

In their lovely innocence,
Warding every evil hence.

From the little ones who dwell
Where the mother guards them well.

God and she about them stand,
They are safe on every hand.

Knelling for them at the throne,
They are hers and God's alone.

And each child, a tender flower,
Blooms in the mother's hour.

—Margaret B. Sangster in the Harper's Bazar.

Pope Leo's Health.

A correspondent at Rome reports that Pope Leo is strong and active and cheerful as any nonagenarian could be. Last spring his condition was very precarious, and it was deemed doubtful that he could live out the year. A successful operation by Dr. Mazzoni gave him a new lease of life. On April 16 he descended to his basilica and solemnly rendered thanks to the Almighty amid enthusiastic cheers and all the pomp of catholic worship. Since then the work he has gone through is truly wonderful. He has dealt with Americanism, he has watched Anglican ritualism, he has convened and directed a South American synod and initiated negotiations with Russia to improve the condition of Catholics in that empire and he has been in the main successful.

Transatlantic Travel.

The coming season is to be the greatest of all for transatlantic travel, because of the Paris exposition, and notwithstanding the withdrawal of several large ships for South American transport service there will be a very material increase in accommodations. The North German Lloyd company will have four large new vessels in regular service by next spring, the Cunard company two, the Hamburg-American line one, the Atlantic transport company two, and in addition a new passenger line—the Leyland—will be established with six steamships. Practically all of the transatlantic steamship offices in New York report the heaviest bookings ever known. Some of the lines have already booked from 3000 to 4000 passengers each.

It is very hard to stand idly by and see our dear ones suffer while awaiting the arrival of the doctor. An Albany (N. Y.) dairyman called at a drug store there for a doctor to come and see his child, then very sick with croup. Not finding the doctor in, he left word for him to come at once on his return. He also bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which he hoped would give some relief until the doctor should arrive. In a few hours he returned, saying the doctor need not come, as the child was much better. The druggist, Mr. Otto Scholz, says the family has since recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to their neighbors and friends until he has a constant demand for it from that part of the country. For sale by The Stiles Drug Co.

A gentleman who had been without the power of speech for years, while in a cyclist's shop recently picked up a hub and spoke.



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Vermont News.

Boston Association of Middlebury College Alumni.

In view of the increasing strength of Middlebury College, the approaching centennial and the growing number of alumni in Boston and vicinity, a meeting was held recently at the United States hotel, at which a Boston association of Middlebury college alumni was formed. There are over fifty graduates of Middlebury in Boston and vicinity. An organization was formed, of which the Rev. G. K. W. Scott, of Newton was president, the Rev. George W. Brooks, of Ashmont, secretary, and Charles G. Farrell, of Wollaston treasurer. An address was delivered by the president, Ezra Brainerd, who spoke of the elaborate preparations for the celebration of the centennial in July.

After dinner speeches were made by the Hon. John W. Stewart, ex-governor of Vermont; Prof. Eaton and McGilton, the Rev. Lawrence Phelps, the Rev. George W. Brooks and the Rev. James H. Ross, of Princeton, '74. A vote was passed requesting the trustees to appoint a committee of five from this and other alumni associations to co-operate in securing endowment funds for the college.

Decrees in the Mileage Book Cases.

At the opening session of the United States court, held in Burlington, Feb. 27, Judge Wheeler filed a decree and injunction in the mileage book case of George H. Ball et al. vs. the Rutland Railroad company et al. This is one of the cases growing out of the mileage law, passed by the last legislature, compelling railroad companies to sell mileage books at the rate of two cents per mile. The decree holds that the law is unconstitutional, and cannot be enforced, and also provides for a permanent injunction restraining the railroad company from issuing mileage books at the rate of two cents per mile. No costs are taxed against the railroad commissioners or the state's attorneys in counties through which the road passes.

The decree in the case of R. L. Day & Co., et al., vs. the St. Johnsbury & Lake Champlain Railroad Co., et al., was filed. It is another case under the mileage law passed by the last legislature like that of the Rutland Railroad Co., and holds the law providing for the sale of 2 cent mileage books unconstitutional and grants the plaintiffs an injunction restraining the company from issuing such books.

Bishop A. C. A. Hall visited the Bellows Falls church Sunday, March 4, delivering two excellent sermons.

Barre had a fire last week Wednesday evening, which baffled the efforts of the fire department. It was in the granite block owned by the Granite Savings Bank. The most damage was done by water.

At Northfield, once each month, the names of all patrons of the town liquor agency are to be published in a local newspaper.

The 57th marriage anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Thomas, the oldest married couple living in Sheldon was celebrated last Wednesday. They were married by Rev. Alva Sabin, March 7, 1843. When their golden wedding was observed seven years ago, there were over 100 persons present.

Bishop A. C. A. Hall is giving a series of sermons at St. Albans, on the prayer book litany.

It is reported that an outlet to Montreal has been secured by the Rutland railroad company by the purchase of the United Counties railway. Dr. W. Webb, chairman of the Rutland's board of directors is quoted by the New York Times as saying that the acquisition had been brought about through the efforts of H. A. Hodge, who is interested in the Rutland. Dr. Webb added that besides this the Rutland would build another outlet from Noyan Junction to some point on the Canadian Pacific.

Dr. A. M. Phelps, Professor of surgery at the University of Vermont, has been elected president of the New State Medical Society.

About \$3,400 has been subscribed or paid into the fund that is being raised to erect a parish house for St. Peter's church, Bennington. It is probable that the home will be erected during the present season.

Boardman Shaw of Morrisville, father of Gov. Shaw of Iowa, died March 6, from a shock. He was 84 years old.

Adelbert Stearns, aged 58, was found unconscious last week Monday, in the woods at Windham and died in a short time. His skull had been crushed in being dragged by his ox team. He was one of the leading citizens of his town and a veteran of the civil war. He leaves a wife, two daughters and a son, the latter, Dr. Oscar Stearns of Athol.

The Paris Exposition of 1900.

On April 24, 25 and 28, Messrs. Raymond & Whitcomb, the excursion managers, will dispatch parties for the Paris Exposition, which opens April 15. Each party will pass eight or ten days in London before going to Paris, and opportunities will be given to make extended sight-seeing rounds in the British metropolis with one excursion outside of the city, this being to Windsor Castle. In London the headquarters of the parties will be at the new Hotel Russell, and in Paris at the Trocadero Hotel, finely situated on the banks of the Seine, and close by the entrance gates of the Exposition. The first of these parties will sail from New York April 24, on the North German Lloyd steamer Kaiserin Maria Theresia, and will return to New York on the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse. The second party sails from Boston on the steamer New England, April 25, and arrives back June 15. The third party sails from New York April 28 on the Atlantic Transport steamer Marquette, and returns to New York June 10. Special circulars containing information regarding these trips and later ones will be sent by applying to Raymond & Whitcomb, 296 Washington street, Boston, Mass.

The largest sewing machine works in the world are at Elizabethport.

THE PAN AMERICAN EXPOSITION.

General View of the Plaza.

The northern part of the exhibition ground at Buffalo is occupied by a square about 500 feet from east to west and 350 feet from north to south. The buildings bounding three sides of this square and the arrangement of the square itself have been given to Messrs. Babb, Cook and Willard of New York, and the style adopted—a very free version of Spanish architecture—has suggested the name of the Plaza, which has been given it. The central portion of this square is occupied by a terrace only very slightly raised above the surface of the square, and surrounding a sunken garden, in the middle of which is a bandstand. The terrace as well as the garden itself will afford a large space for listeners who attend the concerts which it is proposed to give.

Outside, and at the north of the Plaza, is the railway and trolley station, from which it is supposed the greater number of visitors will enter the exhibition grounds. The railway station itself is masked by a colonnade flanked at either end by two colossal arches, one for those entering the Exposition, and the other for those leaving it. This colonnade bounds the Plaza on the north. It is surrounded by a trellis, which it is proposed to cover with vines of various sorts.

The west side of the Plaza is bounded by a building, which is to serve as a large restaurant. The public pass through the lower arches of this building, which are open, in order to reach that portion of the Exposition which corresponds with the Midway Plaisance at Chicago. The restaurant building itself is two stories high, and is about 350 feet long.

On the east side of the Plaza is a building closely resembling the restaurant, which serves principally as the entrance to the Stadium or athletic field, although portions are also used for exhibition purposes. This also has two stories, the upper story being a large open gallery, from which views of the Plaza on the one side and the Stadium on the other are afforded.

Finally, the south side of the Plaza is bounded by the Electrical Tower, the designing of which has been given to Mr. Howard.

The Stadium or athletic field has been in all its details a subject of careful study. It resembles in a general way that erected at Athens a few years ago, although this one can be, of course, only a temporary structure. It will contain easily 25,000 spectators, and is intended as a model of what it is hoped may be executed some day in permanent form. It has a quarter mile running track and a sufficiently large space in the inside of this for any of the athletic games. Great attention has been paid to having a large number of aisles to reach the seats, and, in addition to the principle entrance on the west, there are provided seven large exits. These exits are made of sufficient breadth and height to admit in case of need the largest vehicles or floats, as it is proposed to use the Stadium for certain pageants, exhibits of automobiles in operation, judging of horses, livestock, agricultural machinery, road machinery, etc. No exhibitor has ever had such a splendid arena in which such exhibits can be displayed, and the athletic carnival to which the Stadium is particularly devoted is expected to be one of the most interesting features of the exhibition.

The space under the seats is to be used for exhibition purposes, and is in itself the equivalent of a very large building. The total length of the Stadium, including the building which forms the entrance, is about 870 feet, and the breadth about 500 feet.

Death of a Famous Clown.

Dan Rice, a famous circus clown, whose death at the age of 77 occurred at Long Branch, recently, deserves a passing word, for he had contributed no little to the gaiety of one nation, although never in a position absolutely to eclipse it even when he fell into evil ways, as he did at various times in the course of his career of 40 years or thereabouts. He was Daniel McLarin by rights, but his father, nicknamed Dan Rice, after a noted clown in Ireland. His career, following the pointer thus given, began with the Howes circus in 1845, but he was then a rough-and-ready old-fashioned clown, and not until his really quick wit was given its direction by one Van Orden, brother-in-law of the circus manager, Spaulding, did he develop into fame as "the Shakespearean clown." Van Orden, who was a man of some reading, gave him Shakespeare's plays, Byron and Scott and other books of sounding verse, and persuaded him to study them and to utter literature; out of which course of intellectual discipline he developed a new style of clowning, and his naturally melodious voice produced "elegant extracts" over the sawdust and he became a great popular favorite. He married a good wife, and grew rich; owned a big farm at Girard, Pa., where he kept his own show horses and other animals; won a very generous with it, so that he gave away thousands of dollars to public and private charities, and built at Girard a soldiers' monument. At one time he ran a newspaper, and tried to get into Congress, but failed. In the war he owned a steamer on the Mississippi which the government seized, and \$30,000 was awarded for damages, which he turned over to President Lincoln to be spent in caring for wounded soldiers and their families. A great many stories could be told of Dan's ups and downs, but he was repeatedly floored by alcohol, and so lost as many comfortable fortunes as he earned. Nevertheless, he was not a poor man when he died, and he had just come to the last chapter of a book about his life which certainly ought to be published.—[Springfield Republican.]

Dr. Ball's Cough Syrup cures the worst cold in a day; stops the running of the nose; breaks the fever and banishes all tendencies toward pneumonia. It is the quickest reliever and curer of throat and lung diseases.

Government Aid in Forestry.

Among the applicants for government assistance in the management of woodlands is William Rockefeller. This gentleman owns a tract of 60,000 acres at Bay Pond, Franklin county, N. Y., on which he has built a hunting and fishing lodge. Much of the land has been logged over, but there is a large tract of virgin timber which has passed the stage of its greatest production in a natural state and is lying idle. Mr. Rockefeller has asked for a working plan by which the mature timber can be turned into revenue without injury to the forest as a game preserve.

The section of working plans of the division of forestry, which gives assistance to owners of timber lands desirous of applying conservative methods of cutting, began the new year with applications representing nearly 2,000,000 acres. This innovation was introduced in October, 1898, and has been exceedingly popular, not only with farmers owning small wood lots, but with large timber proprietors. The purpose of the government in furnishing this assistance is chiefly to afford object lessons to wasteful timber owners who are now skeptical of scientific forest methods. Work has been done on several tracts in the following states: New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Iowa, Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, West Virginia, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee.

The offer to give advice and furnish working plans to persons desirous to plant forest trees, made last August by the division of forestry, has received immediate response from farmers in every part of the country. Although but a few months have elapsed since the offer became generally known, 118 applications have been received, and plans for 38 of these will be completed before the time for spring planting to begin. A still larger number have asked for written advice, which does not require field inspection by the forest officials. The treeless states have been quickest to avail themselves of assistance, the number of applications being as follows: Kansas 38, Oklahoma 19, Nebraska 12, North Dakota 9, Iowa 6, Indiana 5, Texas 5, Minnesota 4, Colorado 3 Washington 3, South Dakota 2, California 2, Illinois 2, New York 2, Ohio 1, Missouri 1, Delaware 1.

The majority of plans are for tracts of 5 to 10 acres, intended by farmers to afford wind-breaks and fuel supplies. A few plantings of 1000 and 2000 acres are being made as experiments in raising forest crops for market in regions where such material is scarce. After considering these applications in order, the division of forestry has sent experts to study the conditions of as many as possible of localities which offered the best opportunities for object lessons to the public. Plans will be sent without delay to each owner, instructing him in detail how to plant, and recommending the species best adapted to his tract.

The Apple and how to Grow It.

The United States department of agriculture has in press and will soon issue farmers' bulletin No. 113, entitled "The Apple and how to Grow it." The bulletin was prepared by G. B. Brackett, the pomologist of the department, and embraces topics intended especially for the propagation, cultivation and care of the family orchard. If, however, the farmer should wish to consider the commercial side of the question, he will find in the bulletin the needed information for the enlargement of his orchard so as to include market varieties.

The bulletin calls attention to the varied uses of the apple, and says no fruit known to the cultivator in the north temperate zone can take the place of the apple as a food product. Many other fruits, indeed, most cultivated fruits, rank as luxuries, but the apple, in most parts of the United States, is one of the leading staple products of the farm. It graces the table in a greater variety of forms than any other fruit, and, as a desert fruit, few are its equal and none its superior.

The propagation of apple trees for planting is not recommended for the average farmer, but as it is a good thing for him to know something of the processes and methods of propagation as commonly practiced, those methods are described, including the different forms of budding and grafting. The selection of an orchard site is not governed by any arbitrary rule, but exposure, soil and drainage must be considered; and a site on a gentle eastern or northeastern slope is favored, as orchards located on such sites suffer less in both soil and tree from the effects of heat and drought. After the site has been chosen, the land must be prepared for planting, and the trees must be selected, the latter being a very important part of orcharding, for upon care and judgment in the selection of trees depend largely future profits of the investment.

The bulletin gives suggestions as to preparing the land, distances for planting, season for planting, selection of trees, and varieties to plant. A list of varieties suited to large areas, arranged by districts, is also given. This is followed by directions for setting the young trees, culture, pruning and training, shaping the tree and gathering the crop. The bulletin contains 10 illustrations. Copies may be obtained from senators, representatives or delegates in Congress, or from the department of agriculture.

A Long Island gardener went to Paxton, in Worcester county, Massachusetts, two years ago and proceeded to cultivate an abandoned farm. The Boston Transcript is authority for the statement that from this farm he harvested the following crop this year: Seven thousand five hundred bushels potatoes, 25,000 cucumbers—the latter from a single acre, 800 barrels of cabbages, 700 bushels of tomatoes, 350 bushels of carrots, 600 bushels of parsnips, 1100 bushels of turnips, 400 bushels of beets, and 1100 heads of cauliflower, besides squashes and some other truck and all the vegetables used by the family.

The Cause of the Grip.

Of all the many theories about the origin and spread of influenza, the latest is surely the most weird. Some eighteen or twenty years ago occurred the loudest noise ever heard on the earth in historic times. It was the effect of a violent volcanic disturbance in the Pacific, which converted the Dutch island of Krakatoa into fine dust floating in the higher atmosphere, and it is said that every Dutchman swelled with pride at the thought that his country was responsible for so distinguished a phenomenon. The fine dusts produced several years afterwards by the absorbent properties of the dust were matters of common observation. But the dust, if we are to believe the new influenza theory, has far more to answer for. In common with other kindred varieties, it affects the breathing surfaces of sensitive people and irritates the eyes, throat, mouth, and bronchial tubes, in much the same way, I take it, as the dust of various vegetable compounds produces sneezing, asthma, and other inconvenient effects. In that case, no wonder we find it difficult to protect ourselves from the ravages of the disease. Apparently we shall have to depend on the effect of the Vestrin to have the atmosphere properly cleansed and disinfected. Failing that, perhaps some genius may be able to invent an anti-influenza muzzle or respirator. Mr. Long will no doubt be ready to make the wearing of it compulsory, and we may yet see the unmuzzled portion of the public chiefted about the streets by muzzled constables.—[London Truth.]

Not Liable to War Tax.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Mr. Wilson, has made an important decision affecting the status of legal papers subject to stamp tax, on which no stamps appear. In litigation before the United States District Court at Keokuk, Ia., Judge Woodson refused to allow a mortgage deed to be put in evidence because it was not stamped. The attorneys who offered the mortgage deed stated the case to the commissioner, explaining that the mortgage was given to secure a note that had passed by endorsement, through several hands. The commissioner's reply was as follows: "Where no express transfer or assignment is made, but in consequence of the note evidencing the debt being transferred by endorsement, there appears to be an implied transfer of the mortgage in contemplation of the law. In reply you are advised that this office has ruled that implied transfers of mortgages are not taxable, and that the transfer or assignment of a mortgage in order to be liable to stamp duty, under schedule A, act of June 13, 1898, must be made in writing and signed by the assignor."

For Over Fifty Years.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used by millions of mothers for their children while teething. If disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. It will relieve the poor little sufferers immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Sold by all druggists throughout the world. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup."

Travelling Picture Galleries.

As chairman of the art committee of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs Mrs. Herman Hall, of Chicago, sent out recently a circular letter to interest the club women of the state in this innovation. The travelling picture gallery, as explained, is to consist of sets of mounted photographs with condensed biographies of the artists. This collection it is intended shall be loaned in turn to such clubs as desire them. This is a clever idea, moreover, and club women who are widely awake as to art will, there is no doubt, respond to the accompanying call for coin with a willingness that would put Barks himself to blush. It is splendid particularly for club women in the smaller towns who have not the opportunity of dropping in to an art gallery every so often, or it may be of coming in personal contact with the masters of the palette.—[Chicago Times Herald.]

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Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy Has Proved Itself to be the Only Positive Cure for Kidney and Bladder Diseases.

Thousands of requests for free bottles of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy have received nearly every day by the manufacturers, and upon strict investigation it has been found that no less than 91 out of every hundred of those receiving trial bottles have been so helped by the Kennedy remedy, that they have bought large sized bottles at their druggists.

It has been proven beyond question that Favorite Remedy is the very best medicine known for diseases of the Kidneys, Liver, Bladder and Blood, Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, Chronic Constipation, and the sicknesses peculiar to women. The manufacturers are prepared to send free trial bottles postpaid to all those who will write, giving their full name and post office address to the Dr. David Kennedy Chemical Co., Rondout, N. Y., and mention this paper.

Put some of your urine in a glass tumbler; if in 24 hours it has a sediment, or a milky, cloudy condition; if it is pale or discolored, ropy or stringy, you need a good medicine, and Favorite Remedy is the best one you can take. It speedily cures such dangerous symptoms as pain in the back, frequent desire to urinate, especially at night, scalding burning pain in passing water, staining of your linen by the urine and inability to hold it. Also the unpleasant and dangerous effects produced on the system by the use of whiskey or beer.

Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy is sold at all drug stores at \$1.00 a bottle, or six bottles for \$5.00.

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"Housework is hard work without Gold Dust"

TO CLEAN NURSERY BOTTLES

After the bottle has been used, rinse it thoroughly in warm water; then fill with warm water containing a teaspoonful of Gold Dust Washing Powder and let it stand, shaking every now and then. If rubber tube is used, let it remain also in the water. Rinse through clean water several times. Gold Dust is much more effective than soap to clean them, as it removes all specks and notes clinging to the sides of the bottles.

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Victorious Progress of the United States, have tried to make a big bugbear of using hot water to flush the bowl, but now this, their last criticism, is overcome, and they are at last to know what to harp on to prejudice purchasers against the Improved U. S. and reduce the constantly increasing sales. Write for our 1900 or "New Century" catalogue giving full particulars.

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For Over Fifty Years.

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Best Soap Made.

Door and Window.

Plazza Work and Door Hoods.

Come in and see me if you think of building a piazza. Perhaps I can give you an idea, if not it don't cost anything to talk it over.

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6 Cows and Heifers, nice ones and 5 Stoves; pair Cook and pair Sitting